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P 170350Z OCT 06  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7514  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8486  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1864  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4580  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1295  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0697  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers front-paged a statement Monday by Director of National Intelligence Negroponte saying that analysis of air samples collected on October 11 detected radioactive debris that confirms North Korea conducted an underground nuclear explosion on October 9.

1. "Maritime Inspections: Japan's Role Questioned" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (10/17): "The UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution on sanctions against North Korea includes maritime inspections of ships entering or leaving that country.... Although the implementation of inspections is left for each country to decide, Japan, which faces a direct threat from North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, must be aware of its position and study what it can do to deal with the situation. Plans are afoot within the GOJ to recognize the North Korean moves as a 'contingency in areas surrounding Japan' and to give rear-area support by supplying fuel and water to the US military in the event of maritime inspections.... Of course, some are concerned that recognizing the situation as a contingency could invite a North Korean attack, and this opinion has emerged even within the ruling parties and the Japan Defense Agency (JDA).... Secretary of State Rice will visit Japan Wednesday with a

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trilateral foreign ministerial meeting among the US, Japan, and South Korea in Seoul set for Thursday. With maritime inspections high on the agenda, the ministerial will further clarify the US position. The GOJ should reach a conclusion after carefully reviewing the situation, with rear-area support in mind."

SCHIEFFER